



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/823,339	04/13/2004	Abraham Bakal	170.1337	4511

21831 7590 10/16/2007
WOLF BLOCK SCHORR AND SOLIS-COHEN LLP
250 PARK AVENUE
NEW YORK, NY 10177

EXAMINER

WONG, LESLIE A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

1794

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
-----------	---------------

10/16/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/823,339

Applicant(s)

BAKAL ET AL.

Examiner

Leslie Wong

Art Unit

1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 and 36-74 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 and 36-74 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, 36-38, 59, 61, 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Fotos et al (US 6365217) and Fotos et al (US 6180157) for the reasons set forth in rejecting the claims in the last Office action. The amendments to the claims are not seen to influence the conclusion of unpatentability previously set forth.

Fotos et al (US 6365217) teach an agglomerate comprising an intense sweetener and a carrier (see entire document, especially claims 1, 4, and 7).

Fotos et al (US 6180157) teach an agglomerate comprising an intense sweetener and a carrier (see entire document, especially claims 1, 4, and 7).

The claims appear to differ as to the recitation of a specific bulk density.

The bulk density would be no more than inherent and/or obvious to that of Fotos et al (US 6365217 and US 6180157) as the same components are used.

Applicant's arguments filed August 6, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Fotos et al (US 6365217 and US 6180157) are directed to neotame.

Applicant claims dipeptide sweeteners. Neotame (N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1- methyl ester) is a dipeptide sweetener.

Claims 1-34 and 36-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fotos et al (US 6365217), Fotos et al (US 6180157), Vleugels (US 5902624), and Karwowski et al (US 4741910) for the reasons set forth in rejecting the claims in the last Office action. The amendments to the claims are not seen to influence the conclusion of unpatentability previously set forth.

Fotos et al (US 6365217 and US 6180157) disclose an agglomerate comprising an intense sweetener and a carrier (see entire document, especially claims 1, 4, and 7). Fotos et al (US 6365217 and US 6180157) disclose dextrose and maltodextrin and the conventional process of agglomeration (see entire patents and the claims).

Vleugels (US 5902624) disclose a composition comprising aspartame and a carrier including maltodextrin and dextrose, wherein the free bulk density is 350 kg/m³ or lower (see entire patent, especially column 6, lines 61-63 and Table 1).

Karwowski et al (US 4741910) disclose an agglomerated aspartame comprising aspartame, maltodextrin, and corn syrup solids (see entire document, especially column 5, lines 16-39 and column 6, lines 13-15).

The claims differ as to the specific amounts claimed.

In the absence of a showing to the contrary, the selection and manipulation of the amounts of known components to obtain no more than expected results is well-within the skill of the art.

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to use the claimed amounts in either Fotos et al (US 6365217), Fotos et al (US 6180157), Vleugels (US 5902624), or Karwowski et al (US 4741910) because the use of intense sweeteners, carriers, and agglomeration in the sweetener art is conventional. Applicant is using known components to obtain no more than expected results.

Applicant's arguments filed August 6, 2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Fotos et al (US 6365217 and US 6180157) are directed to neotame, that the references are not combinable, and that the claimed invention provides for unexpected results.

Applicant claims dipeptide sweeteners. Neotame (N-[N-(3,3-dimethylbutyl)-L- α -aspartyl]-L-phenylalanine 1- methyl ester) is a dipeptide sweetener.

In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in

Art Unit: 1794

the art. See *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988) and *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992). In this case, all of the references are directed to the conventional use of intense sweeteners and carriers.

Applicant has not provided support for the unexpected results.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leslie Wong whose telephone number is 571-272-1411. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Keith Hendricks can be reached on 571-272-1401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1794

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leslie Wong". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Leslie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Wong".

Leslie Wong
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1794

LAW
October 11, 2007